VISIT…

MARVEL
RAZORLINE
7
mar
$1.75 U.S
SUPER HEROES FROM THE MIND OF
CLIVE BARKER
HYPERKIND™
THEY NEVER KNEW HOW THEIR POWERS CHANGED THEM. . .
. . .OR WHAT PRICE THEY WOULD PAY. . .
. . .NOW, FINALLY, THAT KNOWLEDGE WILL COME. . .
OBI
TOO LATE?
DIRECT EDITION

The Shining Path...
A pixis, a paxis,
I'll tell you what the faxis
If you come with me
On the shining path...
A stratnjel, a chatnjel,
The city of the angel
The place I have to start
On the shining path...
A starlight, a starbright,
A griffin on a moon night
The second step for me
On the shining path...
A wumpass, a compass,
A northwest telejumpus
To view the steps to be
On the shining path...
A fairheart, a good start,
A wander in the strange part
I'll have to walk to see
On the shining path...
A good bird, a lost word,
A closed door brought to light
Heard almost to the end
Of the shining path...
Begotten, forgotten,
How many heroes fought in
Knock an answer now
On the shining path...
Remember, December,
To know is to begin her
Now I'm at the end
Of the shining path!
...TO
AMBERTRANCE!
THE MOON RISES OVER A HOLLYWOOD BACK ALLEY...
...ITS LIGHT REVEALING FOUR TEENAGERS IN ANGUISH! JUST DAYS AGO, THEY WERE TRANS-FIGURED... EMPOWERED WITH THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE FAILED SUPER HERO TEAM THE PAXIS!
NOW THEY LOOK ON, STUNNED, AS THE MOON SHINES DOWN ON THE FACE OF ARMATA... A FACE AGED PREMATURELY IN THE VICIOUS BATTLE AGAINST THE PAXIS DEATH-FOES KNOWN ONLY AS THE VEXUS!
ARMATA! THEY KILLED HER!
A TALE OF THE BARKERVERSE
CLIVE BARKER PRESENTS THE HYPERKIND
CREATED BY CLIVE BARKER
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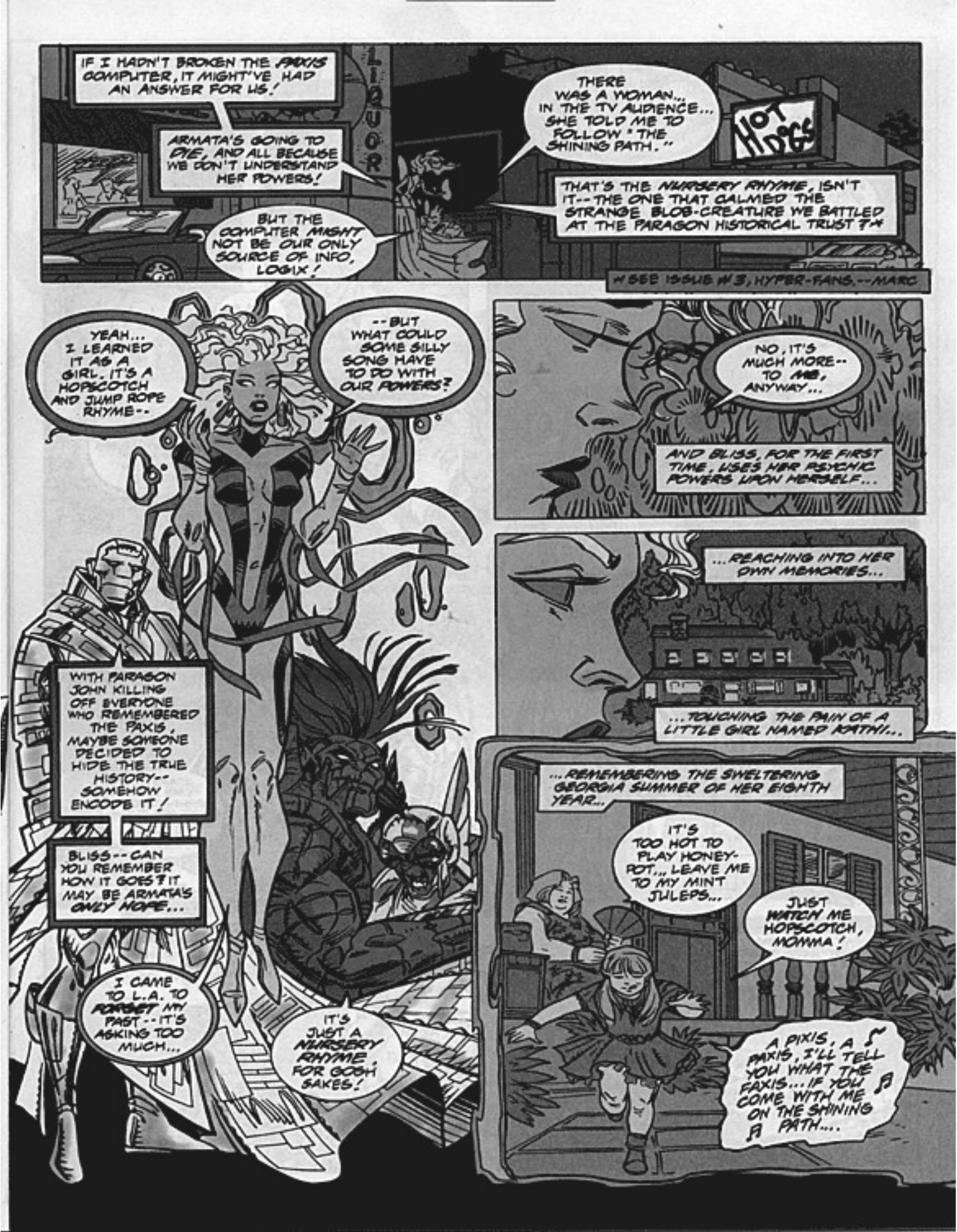
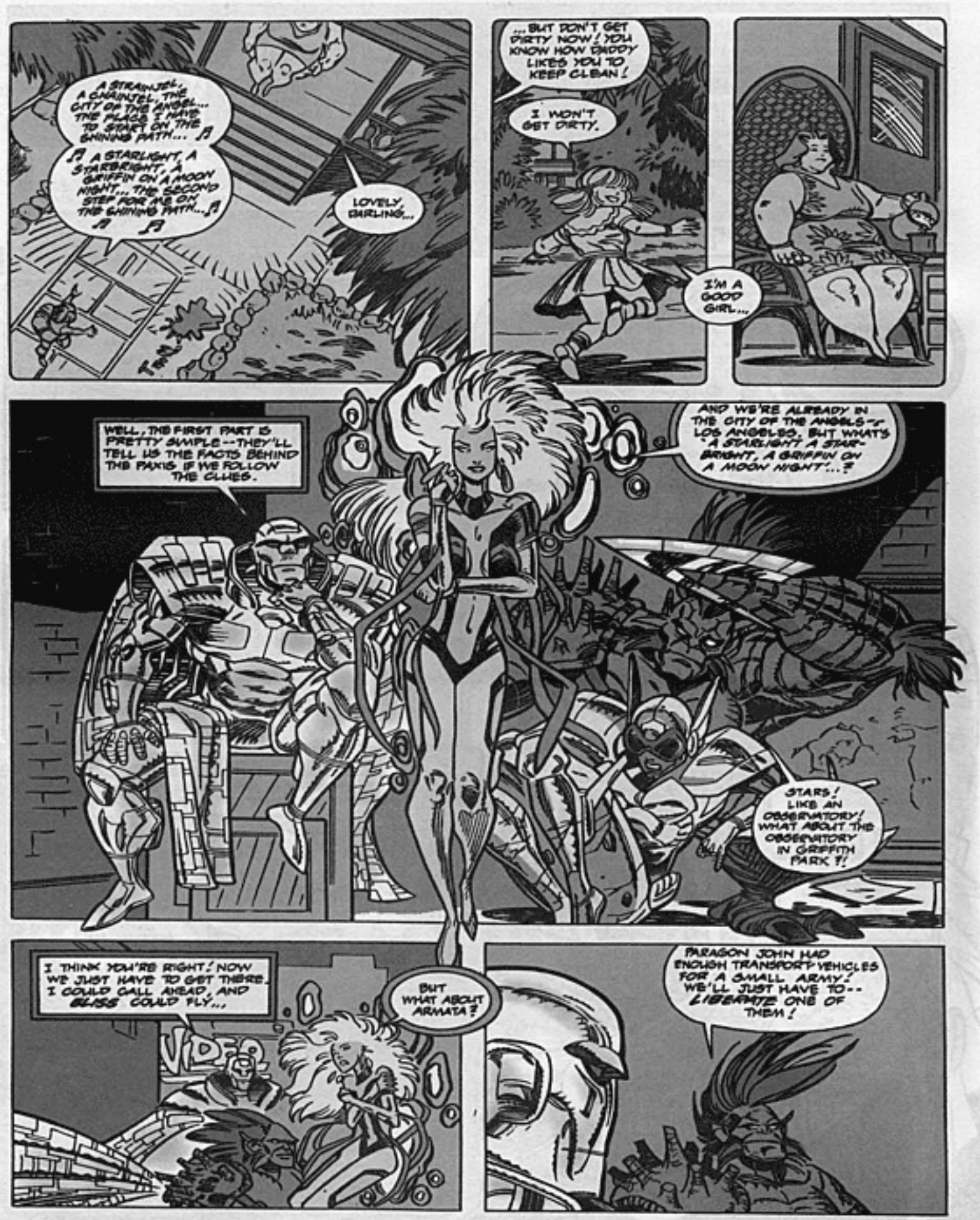
W-WHAT HAPPENED, ANOKK?
I BROKE HER FALL, THEN FOUND HER LOOKIN' LIKE THIS...
BLISS REACHES OUT... READING THE DREAMSELF OF ARMATA...
...SEEING AT LAST HER FINAL CRUEL BATTLE WITH THE VEXUS CALLED QUIETUS!
BLISS WATCHES, AGONIZED, AS HER TEAMMATE POURS AN UNCEASING BARRAGE INTO THE SILENT QUIETUS...
CHOOM! CHOOM!!
LET LOOSE, GIRL! GIVE IT YOUR ALL!
...EXHAUSTING EVERY OUNCE OF ENERGY AT HER DISPOSAL!
SHE'S ALIVE! I CAN STILL TOUCH HER DREAMS!
BUT FOR HOW LONG?
YOU'RE RIGHT, BLISS! MY ENHANCED HEARING IS PICKING UP A HEARTBEAT!
FAINT... SLOW... BUT THERE!
LOGIX'S LASER EYE BEAMS SCAN THE AIR AROUND ARMATA'S FACE...
THERE'S A SLIGHT MOTION OF MOLECULES -- SHE'S STILL EXHALING CARBON DIOXIDE -- SHE'S ALIVE!
THANK THE GODDESS! THERE'S STILL TIME!
"GODDESS"?


IF I HADN'T BROKEN THE PAXIS COMPUTER, IT MIGHT'VE HAD AN ANSWER FOR US!
ARMATA'S GOING TO DIE, AND ALL BECAUSE WE DON'T UNDERSTAND HER POWERS!
BUT THE COMPUTER MIGHT NOT BE OUR ONLY SOURCE OF INFO, LOGIX!
LIQUOR
THERE WAS A WOMAN... IN THE TV AUDIENCE... SHE TOLD ME TO FOLLOW "THE SHINING PATH."
HOT DOGS
THAT'S THE NURSERY RHYME, ISN'T IT--THE ONE THAT CALMED THE STRANGE BLOB-CREATURE WE BATTLED AT THE PARAGON HISTORICAL TRUST?*
*SEE ISSUE #3, HYPER-FANS.--MARC
YEAH... I LEARNED IT AS A GIRL. IT'S A HOPSCOTCH AND JUMP ROPE RHYME--
--BUT WHAT COULD SOME SILLY SONG HAVE TO DO WITH OUR POWERS?
NO, IT'S MUCH MORE-- TO ME, ANYWAY...
AND BLISS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, USES HER PSYCHIC POWERS UPON HERSELF...
...REACHING INTO HER OWN MEMORIES...
...TOUCHING THE PAIN OF A LITTLE GIRL NAMED KATHI...
WITH PARAGON JOHN KILLING OFF EVERYONE WHO REMEMBERED THE PAXIS, MAYBE SOMEONE DECIDED TO HIDE THE TRUE HISTORY-- SOMEHOW ENCODE IT!
BLISS--CAN YOU REMEMBER HOW IT GOES? IT MAY BE ARMATA'S ONLY HOPE...
...REMEMBERING THE SWELTERING GEORGIA SUMMER OF HER EIGHTH YEAR...
IT'S TOO HOT TO PLAY HONEY-POT... LEAVE ME TO MY MINT JULEPS...
JUST WATCH ME HOPSCOTCH, MOMMA!
I CAME TO L.A. TO FORGET MY PAST--IT'S ASKING TOO MUCH...
IT'S JUST A NURSERY RHYME, FOR GOSH SAKES!
A PIXIS, A PAXIS, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THE PAXIS... IF YOU COME WITH ME ON THE SHINING PATH....


A STRAHJEL, A GNAINJEL, THE CITY OF THE ANGEL... THE PLACE I HAVE TO START ON THE SHINING PATH...
♫ A STARLIGHT, A STARBRIGHT, A GRIFFIN ON A MOON NIGHT... THE SECOND STEP FOR ME ON THE SHINING PATH... ♫
LOVELY, DARLING...
...BUT DON'T GET DIRTY NOW! YOU KNOW HOW DADDY LIKES YOU TO KEEP CLEAN!
I WON'T GET DIRTY.
I'M A GOOD GIRL...
WELL, THE FIRST PART IS PRETTY SIMPLE--THEY'LL TELL US THE FACTS BEHIND THE PAXIS IF WE FOLLOW THE CLUES.
AND WE'RE ALREADY IN THE CITY OF THE ANGELS--LOS ANGELES. BUT WHAT'S "A STARLIGHT A STARBRIGHT, A GRIFFIN ON A MOON NIGHT"...?
STARS! LIKE AN OBSERVATORY! WHAT ABOUT THE OBSERVATORY IN GRIFFITH PARK?!
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT! NOW WE JUST HAVE TO GET THERE. I COULD CALL AHEAD, AND BLISS COULD FLY...
BUT WHAT ABOUT ARMATA?
PARAGON JOHN HAD ENOUGH TRANSPORT VEHICLES FOR A SMALL ARMY! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO-- LIBERATE ONE OF THEM!

PARACORPS HEADQUARTERS, WHERE GEORGE PUTS HIS STREETSMARTS TO A NEW USE...
...HOTWIRING A TROOPMOVER TO TRANSPORT THE HYPERKIND!
HOLD IT! JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
NOTHIN', OFFICER... THE FOUR OF US JUST WANT TO BORROW YOUR RIDE!
'ZAT SO? LOUSY PUNKS'RE GONNA WISH YOU--
--FOUR?
POW!
PERHAPS I CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE...
FOUR.
OUGHTA LEARN TO COUNT FASTER, BUD.
STILL GOT THE GOLDEN GLOVES TOUCH, LOGIX!
AT ONE TIME THAT WAS MY ANSWER TO EVERYTHING...
...BUT NOW I FIND VIOLENCE ONLY A LOGICALLY EXPEDIENT SOLUTION.
JERK KIDS GOT THEMSELVES A TON OF TROUBLE...
PARACORPS ALERT! GET A 'COPTER OUT HERE! SOME DUMB--
UNGH!
OH, NO--NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.
NOT WHEN THEY'VE GONE TO SUCH TROUBLE TO ACQUIRE MY INTEREST! YOU CAN'T STOP THEM--
--BEFORE THEY LEAD ME TO MY QUARRY!

WELL PAST MIDNIGHT AT GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY, THE PARKING LOT SPARSELY DOTTED WITH CARS...
THIS IS IT, GUYS-- WE'RE HERE!
BUT WE'RE NOT ALONE!
...AS YOUNG LOVERS PAUSE FOR ROMANCE IN THE LIGHT OF AN L.A. MOONRISE.
I GUESS THIS IS OUR SECOND TIME TO PARK HERE, EH, LISA? BUT A LOT HAS CHANGED SINCE THEN...OH LISA! I NEVER MEANT TO HURT YOU!
I JUST NEED MY SPACE!
WITH PARAGON JOHN'S SPIES ABOUT, WE CAN'T BE SEEN!
GEORGE, YOU'RE STILL POWERED DOWN-- CAN YOU SCOUT THE AREA?
WAIT-ALLOW ME TO PROVIDE A LITTLE DISTRACTION! LET'S SEE...
...WHAT'S SOMETHIN' CREATIVE TO MAKE THESE LOVESTRUCK HEARTS POUND WITH A NEW BEAT?
TAP TAP
VRMM
YAAAAH!
MEE MEE!
SCREECH

SO WHAT'S THE NEXT LINE, BLISS?
B-BE PATIENT! I'M TRYING...
"IT'S NOT AS EASY AS YOU SEEM TO THINK!"
THAT'S GOOD, KATHI! SUCH A QUIET LITTLE PRINCESS! MY LITTLE PRINCESS!
A WUMPUSS, A COMPASS ♫ A NORTHWEST TELEJUMPUS.. TO VIEW THE STEPS TO BE ♫ ON THE SHINING PATH...
I WAS SO SMALL... SO TRUSTING...
HEY! WHAT'CHA DOIN' WITH YOUR CAPE?
CHARGING IT ELECTRICALLY-- LIKE A MAGNET! INSTANT COMPASS!
SO THIS WAY IS NORTHWEST...
BUT WHAT THE HECK IS A TELE-JUMPUS?
HEY, GUYS! THERE ARE LITTLE TELESCOPES OVER HERE!
UH-OH - THAT MEANS THEY'LL BE AFTER THE NEXT PART OF THE GONG...
WHOA! CHECK IT OUT!
A STAIRWAY! WE GOT IT!
BUT DOES THIS MEAN SOMEONE'S GOING TO 'JUMP US'? HEH...
LISA, BABE! I THINK YOU'RE HOME FREE!

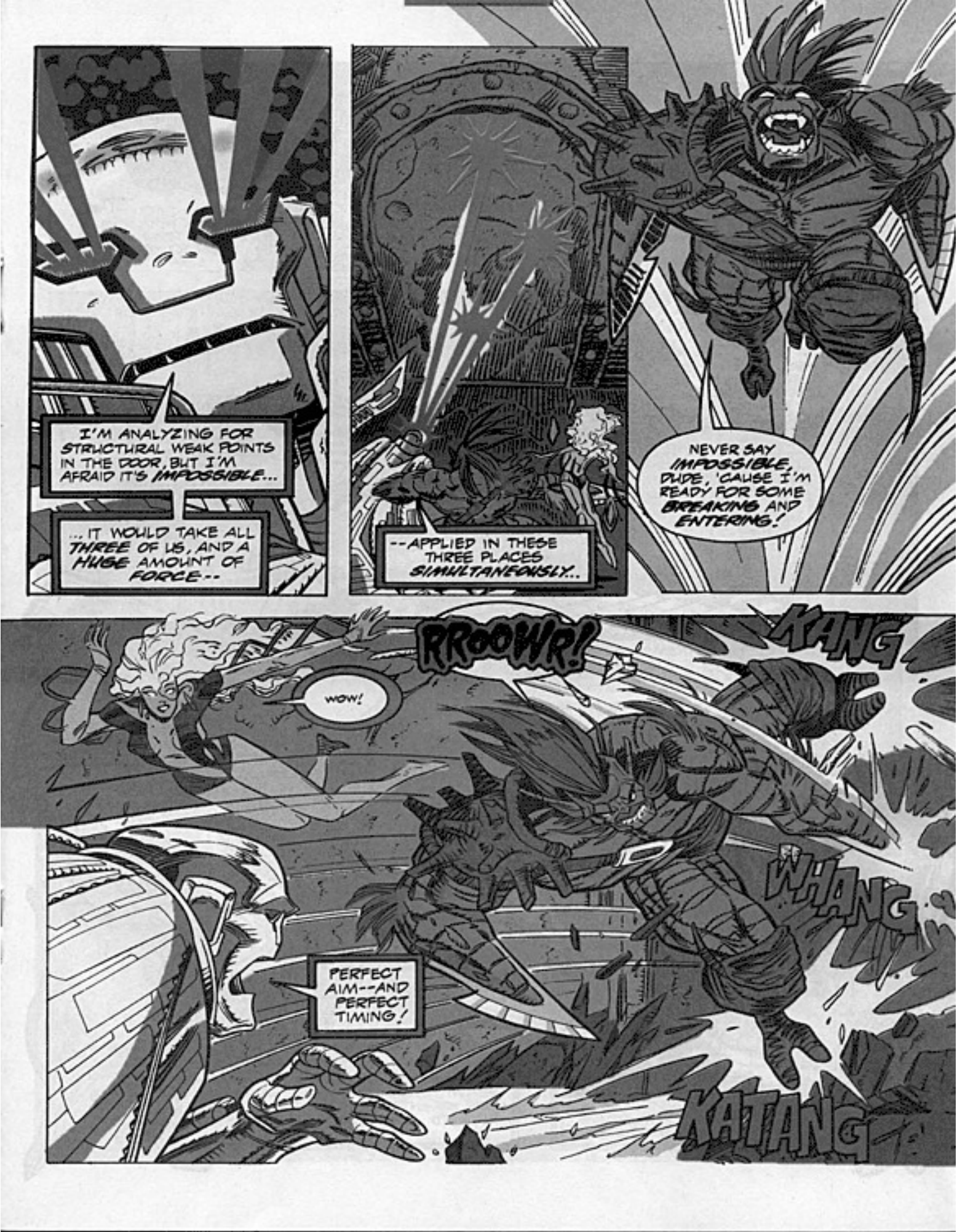
THIS UNDERGROWTH'S A REAL PAIN!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME TO LEAVE MY PRETTY GOLD SKIN BEHIND--
--AND KEY-UP AMOKK FOR THE ROUGH AND TUMBLE!
FWASH
HEY GUYS, CHECK OUT MY GINSU DEMONSTRATION!
HE REALLY GETS OFF ON THIS, HUH?
FWAK
CHAK
GEORGE ONCE TOLD ME THAT ENGLISH WAS HIS SECOND LANGUAGE--
-- LEARNED FROM SOME GUY NAMED STAN LEE...
BUT... ISN'T THIS SHINING PATH SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET? YOU'RE BLAZING A TRAIL ANY CUB SCOUT COULD FOLLOW!
ARMATA DOESN'T HAVE TIME FOR US TO PUSSY-FOOT AROUND, BLISS!
WHAT'S THE NEXT PART OF THE SONG, ANYWAY?
I... I'D RATHER NOT FIND OUT... I BLOTTED OUT A LOT OF UGLY THINGS BY SINGING THAT TUNE IN MY HEAD...
C'MON-- IT CAN'T BE THAT BAD...
IT CAN...

MEMORIES... BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES...
ARE YOU AWAKE, HONEY? IT'S TIME FOR OUR GAME...
"BLISS? BLISS! ARE YOU OKAY?!"
NO!
I MEAN... I REMEMBER... THE NEXT PART--
"A FAIRHEART, A GOOD START, A WANDER IN THE STRANGE PART...
I'LL HAVE TO WALK TO SEE ON THE SHINING PATH..."
BUT THAT'S ALL! I CAN'T THINK ABOUT THIS ANYMORE, OKAY?
BRINGING IT ALL BACK-- WHAT I WANTED SO MUCH TO FORGET--
--IF KENNY KNEW, HE'D HATE ME... THINK I WAS BAD... THAT'S WHAT DADDY ALWAYS SAID...
...NOT TO TELL ANYONE... NOT TO TELL...
HEY-- THERE'RE STEPS HERE!
MY SCANS INDICATE PLEXIGLASS SQUARES-- SUBMERGED IN THE SOIL! SOMEONE WENT TO A LOT OF HIGH-TECH TROUBLE FOR THIS ENCRYPTED TREASURE HUNT!
CHECK IT OUT! SOMETHING'S LIGHTIN' UP THE GROUND ITSELF!
IT REALLY DOES SHINE! BUT WHAT DO WE DO NOW? I MEAN, I CAN'T REMEMBER...
BLISS, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE OF US WHO'S EVEN HEARD IT! YOU'VE GOT TO TRY!
"OPEN SESAME" AIN'T GONNA DO THE TRICK-- WITHOUT YOU, THIS IS THE END OF THE ROAD!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO PUT THIS ON ME? I CAN'T SAVE ANYONE--
I COULDN'T EVEN SAVE MYSELF...

YOU'VE GOTTEN US THIS FAR... YOU'RE SAFE...
AM I? HOW CAN I BE FREE UNLESS I TELL YOU? AND IF I TELL...
...HOW WILL YOU EVER LOOK AT ME AGAIN?
OH, YOU MUSTN'T TELL, HONEY. MOMMY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
BUT DON'T WORRY. I'LL KEEP OUR SECRET SAFE--
BUT THERE COULD BE NO SAFETY--
--AND AT FIFTEEN, KATHI STRUCK OUT ON HER OWN...
...FOOLISHLY CERTAIN THAT SHE COULD GET BY--
--NO MATTER THE CONSEQUENCES.
SHE DIDN'T COUNT ON HIM FOLLOWING HER.
SKREEECHH
JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, YOUNG LADY?
ANYWHERE TO GET AWAY FROM YOU!
YOU LITTLE HARLOT!
SMACK
THERE WAS ONLY ONE ESCAPE... ONE WAY TO NUMB THE FEAR...
...ALMOST TO THE END OF THE SHINING PATH...
A GOOD BIRD, A LOST WORD, A CLOSED DOOR BROUGHT TO LIGHT HEARD...
...A NURSERY RHYME... ONE LAST REMNANT OF THE GIRL SHE'D LONGED TO BE -- BEFORE HER INNOCENCE SEEMED LOST TO HER FOREVER...

BLISS STANDS IN FRONT OF THE GLOWING DOOR...HER MEMORIES DEFEATED...
...HER MIND MADE UP.
ARE--ARE YOU OKAY?
I--I THINK I FINALLY WILL BE.
WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, LOGIX... KENNY...
...WE NEED TO TALK.
YOU WANTED ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT MY PAST--NOW, MAYBE I'M READY TO CONFIDE IN SOMEONE...
...LIKE I SHOULD'VE DONE LONG AGO. BUT FIRST...
BEGOTTEN, FORGOTTEN, HOW MANY HEROES FOUGHT IN... ♫
TOK
KNOCK AN ANSWER NOW ON THE SHINING PATH...
THAT'S US...ONE FOR ARMATA...
...ONE FOR LOGIX...ONE FOR AMOKK...
TOK
TOK
...AND ONE FOR ME...
TOK
REMEMBER, DECEMBER, TO KNOW IS TO BEGIN HER...
...NOW I'M AT THE END OF THE SHINING PATH!
NO!
THE RHYME'S NOT ABOUT US--IT'S ABOUT THE PAXIS!
FIVE KNOCKS--FIVE PAXIS! KNOCK AGAIN--QUICKLY!
BUT THAT SPLIT SECOND OF INDECISION IS TOO MUCH...
...AS THE LIGHTS CUT OFF, AND THE VERY GROUND QUAKES AT THE SEVERITY OF THEIR ERROR!
RMBRM
GET BACK OR WE'LL BE CRUSHED!

MOMENTS LATER, THE AVALANCHE IS COMPLETE, THE ROCKS FROM THE CLIFFSIDE ABOVE HAVING BURIED THE STEEL GATEWAY...
... SEALING ARMATA'S FATE!
KRESH
BESH
KALEEH
NO... THE ENTRANCE IS BLOCKED! THE ARCHITECTS OF THIS PLACE DESIGNED FAILSAFES EVEN BEYOND MY ABILITY TO SCAN!
YEAH, WELL, PUT THAT ENHANCED GRAY MATTER TO USE GETTIN' US OUTTA YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S LATEST SCREW-UP!
HEY! I DID EVERYTHING YOU ASKED ME TO!
FINE! THANK YOU! BUT IN CASE YOU'VE BOTH FORGOTTEN, THE CLOCK'S STILL TICKIN' ON ARMATA--
--AND IT SEEMS LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO GIVES A DANG!
SHAK
NOW GET OUTTA MY WAY!
WE'RE JUST A STONE'S THROW FROM OUR GOAL--
--AND NO ROCKPILE'S GONNA STOP ME FROM FINDIN' OUT WHAT WE NEED TO SAVE HER!


I'M ANALYZING FOR STRUCTURAL WEAK POINTS IN THE DOOR, BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
...IT WOULD TAKE ALL THREE OF US, AND A HUGE AMOUNT OF FORCE--
--APPLIED IN THESE THREE PLACES SIMULTANEOUSLY..
NEVER SAY IMPOSSIBLE, DUDE, 'CAUSE I'M READY FOR SOME BREAKING AND ENTERING!
RROOWR!
KANG
WOW!
WHANG
PERFECT AIM--AND PERFECT TIMING!
KATANG

WITH ALL OF AMOKK'S WEIGHT BEHIND IT, THE DOOR GIVES WAY...
I DID IT! I REALLY DID IT!
WAS A TIME KEMMY WOULD'VE BROKEN DOWN ANY DOOR TO HELP LISA--
--NOW DYAN'S GOT 'IM SO WRAPPED AROUND HER FINGER, SHE'S SCRAMBLING HIS CIRCUITS!
WELL, WHEN THIS IS OVER, THINGS'RE GONNA CHANGE, LOGIX.
CHAK
THINGS'LL-- WHOA! WHAT'VE I BUSTED INTO?
SKAKAKAK
REMARKABLE. A HUGE SUBTERRANEAN CHAMBER FULL OF INCALCULABLE DIZZYING STAIRWAYS!
ONE OF THEM MUST LEAD TO AN ANSWER FOR ARMATA!
THANK THE GODDESS I DIDN'T BLOW IT AFTER ALL!
IF AMOKK HADN'T GOTTEN US IN HERE, I NEVER WOULD'VE FORGIVEN MYSELF!
THE POWER NECESSARY TO HIDE SUCH A MONUMENTAL STRUCTURE IS IMMENSE!
AND WITH THAT ENTRANCE, WE'VE NO HOPE OF ENTERING UNNOTICED! PRAY THAT ITS OCCUPANTS ARE FRIENDS AND NOT FOES!

AND WE THOUGHT THE PAXIS LABORATORY WAS A KNOCK-OUT!
IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF WEIRD SHRINE...
...AND THEY WORSHIP... THE PAXIS?!

I'M GLAD YOU MADE IT, CHILDREN...
...I AM AMBERTRANCE FASIA...
...IN THE NAME OF THE PAXIS, THE FAITHFUL WELCOME YOU.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PAXIS--THEIR HISTORY?!
WHY... JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING! THE ANUBISTI AND HORUSIANS, WARRING ALIEN RACES, ARRIVED ON EARTH IN 1915.
MANDAMUS THERMAKK, LAWGIVER OF GUO, FOLLOWED IN 1917...

...AND HE EMPOWERED FIVE YOUNG AMERICANS WITH THE GREATEST GIFTS OF HIS WORLD--CREATING THE SUPER-TEAM CALLED THE PAXIS.
THE PAXIS SAVED EARTH FROM THE ALIEN INVASION, AND WERE A FORCE FOR EARTHLY GOOD UNTIL 1963--
--THE YEAR PARAGON JOHN WIPED THEM--AND THAT SECRET HISTORY--FROM THE FACE OF THE PLANET...

... BUT TELL ME, AREN'T YOU EVEN CURIOUS WHO I AM... WHY I KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE QUO?
WELL, YES, THAT IS STILL MISSING DATA.
ONCE I WAS PAXIS, TOO.
OH, MY G-- THEN YOU CAN HELP US!
IF I CHOOSE...
YOU'LL CHOOSE, LADY!
IT'S OUR COMRADE, ARMATA. SHE'S DYING.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO? SOMETIMES I KNOW THINGS, SOMETIMES I DON'T...
...IS SHE AT THE HELIOPOLIS? TAKE ME TO HER!
WAITAMINNIT! HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HELIOPOLIS?
THE POWERS WERE MOVED THERE AFTER THE PAXIS DISBANDED!
HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT'S WHERE WE FOUND THEM?
THERMAKK TOLD ME-- HOW ELSE?

SECONDS LATER...
WHAT DID SHE DO? COMPLETELY DEPLETE HER LIFE FORCE?
WHADDAYA MEAN?
HER LIFE FORCE! WHAT DO YOU THINK POWERS THOSE WEAPONS OF HERS?
I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND.

YOU, GIRL! HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED PSYCHIC FEEDBACK YET?
WELL, YES...
EACH POWER HAS A DRAWBACK-- SURELY ESCHBACHER EXPLAINED IT TO YOU?!

YOUR FRIEND THERMAKK KILLED HIM DEAD, LADY!
YOUR TEMPER-- THE DOWNSIDE OF INSTINCT...

I-I ACCIDENTALLY SCREWED UP THE COMPUTER.
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO TELL US EVERYTHING WE NEEDED TO KNOW--AND I BROKE IT.

PRIDE, THE INABILITY TO COPE WITH MISTAKES, COLDNESS... SO MANY DOWNSIDES TO YOUR POWER...
BUT FOR NOW, WE MUST GET YOUR FRIEND BACK INTO HER SARCOPHAGI!

I DON'T GET IT... IF THERMAKK'S YOUR FRIEND, THEN YOU SHOULDN'T BE HELPING US--
--BUT THANK YOU!
LIFE, BLISS DEAR, IS THE HIGHEST VALUE OF ALL...

ARMATA CAN RENEW HER ENERGY, BUT SHE MUST ALWAYS GUARD AGAINST THIS IN THE FUTURE!
I WANT SO MUCH TO TRUST THIS AMBERTRANCE...
...BUT SOMETHING ABOUT HER SEEMS SO WRONG!
COME BACK, AND I'LL TELL YOU MORE... SO MUCH MORE! AND YOU CAN FIX MY ENTRYWAY...

LONG MOMENTS LATER...
... IN THE PAXIS LABORATORY...
WELL, THIS IS IT!
THESE ALIEN MACHINES-- THEY'VE WARPED ALL OUR LIVES BUT GOOD!
WE WARPED OUR LIVES, AMOKK. AND IF WE HADN'T, WE ALL MIGHT HAVE DIED THEN AND THERE!
LET'S JUST HOPE THIS FASIA LADY ISN'T LYING!
WELL, SOMETHIN'S GOIN' ON IN THERE!
EVEN MY ENHANCED INTELLECT FINDS THIS HARD TO SWALLOW...
"...SPITTING IN THE EYE OF DEATH TO SAVE LISA'S LIFE!
"OF COURSE, SHE'S MORE THAN LISA NOW... BUT WHAT IS THE ENERGY SOURCE FOR THIS TRANSFORMATION?
"SOLAR, NUCLEAR, A SIPHON OFF THE L.A. ELECTRIC GRID? AND HOW CAN THAT COARSE ENERGY BE REFINED...
"...TURNED INTO THE ELEGANT FORCE WHICH POWERS A HUMAN BEING?
"A HUMAN BEING! I'VE LIVED FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS, AND IT'S NEVER EVEN CROSSED MY MIND...
"...THAT SOMETHING POWERS US! SOMETHING MAKES US MOVE, AND THINK, AND FEEL!"

ALL RIGHT!
HANG ON, WORLD! ARMATA'S BACK!
I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER!
OH, KENNY...
...I MEAN, I... WELL...
IT'S OKAY...
YEAH, ARMATA! WE MAY HAVE OUR DIFFERENCES, BUT WE ALL WANT TIME TO SORT THEM OUT!
WELCOME BACK, BABE!

THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FAITHFUL...
...ITS HIDDEN PUZZLE NOW IN HORRENDOUS DISARRAY!
OH, ESCHBACHER-- HOW COULD YOU DO IT, YOU DOLT?! THE PAXIS POWERS IN THE HANDS OF FOUR UNTUTORED CHILDREN?!
"BETTER THAN A VIDEO GAME! YOW!" IT'S A SACRILEGE...
...AND YET...
...SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR SPIRIT SHINES! IS IT INNOCENCE? OPTIMISM? PURE, FOOLISH COURAGE?
WHATEVER IT IS, THESE NEW HYPERKIND DEFEATED THERMAKK, WHO WIELDS ALL THE QUO POWERS COMBINED!
ARMATA... AMOKK... LOGIX... BLISS...
...THEY MAY NOT BE PAXIS-- BUT THEY ARE HUMAN... AND PERHAPS THAT'S ALL THAT COUNTS...
NEXT ISSUE:
THE RETURN OF THE PAXIS KNOWN AS TEMPEST, IN THE CLUTCHES OF PARAGON JOHN'S ZANIACS! DON'T MISS LOST AND FOUND!

PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
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HYPERKIND

burke alert

Marc McLaurin

This week, the RAZORLINE offices were treated to a visit from Fred Burke, writer on the title you hold in your hands, in town to attend Clive Barker's opening of his second New York Gallery show. While in town, of course, we took the opportunity to brainstorm together on the wielder of the fifth power, to be revealed two issues hence. What are the practical applications of the power of "god-consciousness"? How would they be wielded? What are the limitations? Fred was quick with the answers, leaving me feeling a little left out of the creative process. Sigh.

So then I came up with something to do on my own: tease the readers. I'm sure you all have your ears perked anxiously to find out who the fifth power has gone to! So, here are the two officially approved hints toward figuring out who has the fifth power:

1) you've seen him before (actually, that's two hints, isn't it?)

2) It's not who you expect. At all.

The first correct guess, before the publication of HYPERKIND #9, when all will be revealed, will snatch the lucky replier a signed copy of the sold-out HYPERKIND #1.

Now I'm having fun...

Dear Marc and Spencer,

After having read "The Big Lie" from HYPERKIND #3 I have slowly come to the conclusion that my enjoyment of the new Razorline titles is going to be a sterling example of the classic love/hate relationship.

On the plus side, this tale nicely advanced our young crew's search for the truth concerning the history of the original Paxis and why the memory of them has been erased from mankind's collective memory. The visual sequence which portrayed the entrance of Logix into his father's computer system showed the vast potential of this character, and it should be interesting to see what other abilities he displays in the future. Paris Cullins once again did a bang-up job in the penciling department and this issue's cover was another stunning effort. It would be nice, however, to see a few less word balloons and needless copy plastered all over future front pieces.

On the down side, I would be less than honest if I failed to tell you my biggest hang-up with the HYPERKIND book, and most of the Razorline titles in general, and why it slightly lessens my enjoyment of these comics. Simply stated, it is the complete lack of morals of most of the characters you have introduced thus far. This fact wouldn't bother me so much if this was just another new line of horror comics. With comics such as DC's Sandman and the classic Swamp Thing by Alan Moore, a chilling modern and mature age of horrific fantasy has evolved into a very exciting genre of storytelling. However, and much to their credit I might add, the above mentioned titles have never tried to pass off their weirder creations as the highest aspirations of what a human being, even a fictional one, might attain given certain extraordinary conditions.

Each Razorline comic has a banner above the regular title which states these are super "heroes" from the mind of Clive Barker. Would a real hero sell drugs just so he could buy an expensive Golden Age comic book as George tried to do in this story? How in the world can readers believe that he really cares about his younger brothers and sisters, or little kids in general, when he would even consider such an act? I usually don't consider these types of characters, or people, heroes in any sense of the word. I still think HYPERKIND is an interesting concept and is full of potential for a long run of entertaining stories. However, I sincerely hope as this series unfolds that the young members of this team are allowed to evolve into true heroes.

Peace from the desert,
Bill D. Middleton
1708 N. Prince St.
Clovis, NM 88101

Bill, you make some astute comments. It is one of our convictions that heroes are made, not born—and in HYPERKIND, we intend to show that evolution. Yes, there is a deep conflict in values within someone who one minute professes caring for his younger siblings and seconds later decides he should make a drug run to "earn" some extra cash. Yet this kind of misguided thinking is rampant in America today. On the road to maturity there are many missteps—but we all learn from our mistakes. It took Peter Parker one huge error in judgment to learn that "with great power must also come...great responsibility." The Hyper-Kids have their hearts in the right place—but it will take them a while to truly deserve the Paxis' strengths.

To the Razor-Sharp Hyper-Crew...

This is the first letter I've written to any comic. So I decided to write to four different ones (ironically, all of them within Razorline). I didn't start at an early age when I got into comics. In fact, I am twenty-one years old and started in March of this year. I never could get into the Marvel Heroes. Now you have given me some to like.

HYPERKIND is more fantastic than the FANTASTIC FOUR. I'm up to issue #3, and I'm staying with it still. The HYPERKIND are a bunch of heroes I've been waiting for all my life. Mostly because it's what Clive Barker does best, and that is to Create Mythology.

Doug Ackert
28 East Adams St.
East Islip, NY 11730

Boy, howdy — any positive comparison to the FANTASTIC FOUR is high praise indeed, Doug! Glad you're staying around because there are big plans ahead. Thanks for writing and keep those letters coming.

— Fred Burke

NEXT:

The wildest of the original Paxis returns from the great beyond—with a vengeance! Meet and greet **Tempest, the Wild Woman** and a special new guest penciler, **Roger Cruz!** Don't miss this whole new chapter in the ever unfolding history of the Barkerverse!

CUTTING EDGE ALERT!

Next week in ECTOKID #7:

Dex acquires the power of possession, to save his mother's life—and accidentally swaps souls with her attacker! It's not pretty—and it may be **permanent!**

ELSEWHERE, ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE:

HOKUM & HEX #7:

Trip Munroe is dead—Or is he? It's a split-second adventure as Trip's life flashes before his eyes, and Bloodshed threatens to make the journey his last!

SAINT SINNER #7:

Trapped between the Earth and the Ectosphere with helpless humans to protect, Philip is truly on the eve of destruction! Is this the Saint Sinner's final hour?